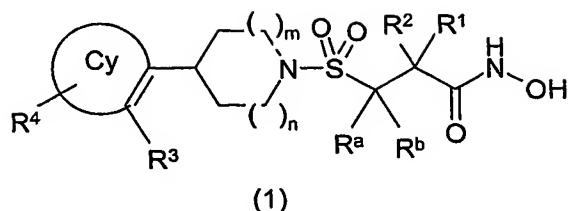


**CLAIMS**

1. A compound of formula (1):



5 wherein:

Cy is an aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

n is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3; in which the sum of m and n is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

10 R<sup>1</sup> is a group selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, -C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaryl, -C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylheteroaryl, -C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylheterocycloalkyl or -C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylC<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, in which each aryl or heteroaryl group, present as or as part of the group R<sup>1</sup>, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R<sup>7</sup>, wherein each R<sup>7</sup> may be the same or different, and is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, Br, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>haloalkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>haloalkoxy, -CN, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>7a</sup>, -CON(R<sup>7a</sup>)<sub>2</sub> or -COR<sup>7a</sup>; and in which each alkyl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl group, present as or as part of the group R<sup>1</sup>, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R<sup>8</sup>, wherein each R<sup>8</sup> may be the same or different, and is an atom or group selected from F, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>haloalkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>haloalkoxy, =O, =NOR<sup>10</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8a</sup>, -CON(R<sup>8a</sup>)<sub>2</sub> or -COR<sup>8a</sup>;

R<sup>7a</sup>, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom, or a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>haloalkyl group;

25 R<sup>8a</sup>, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom, or a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>haloalkyl group;

R<sup>10</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl group;

or  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group  $R^9$ , wherein each  $R^9$  may be the same or different, and is an atom or group selected from F,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl, 5  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-6}$ haloalkoxy, =O, =NOR<sup>10</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8a</sup>, -CON(R<sup>8a</sup>)<sub>2</sub> or -COR<sup>8a</sup>;

6  $R^3$  is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, Br,  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-3}$ haloalkyl,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-3}$ haloalkoxy or -CN;

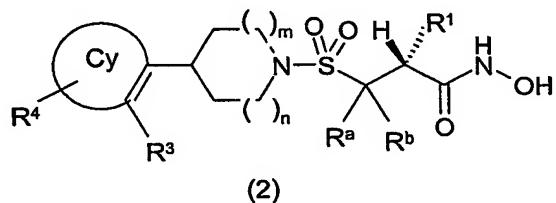
7  $R^4$  is a hydrogen, F, Cl or Br atom or a  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-3}$ haloalkyl,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-3}$ haloalkoxy, -CN, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>5</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>6</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -CON(R<sup>6</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -N(R<sup>6</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>5</sup> or 10 -NCOR<sup>5</sup> group;

8  $R^5$  is a  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl group;

9  $R^6$ , which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl group; and

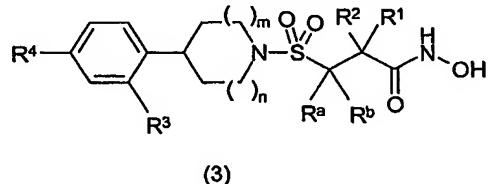
10  $R^a$  and  $R^b$ , which may be the same or different, is each an atom or group selected from hydrogen or  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, or  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  may be joined to form a  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group as defined for  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ; and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or  $N$ -oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (2):



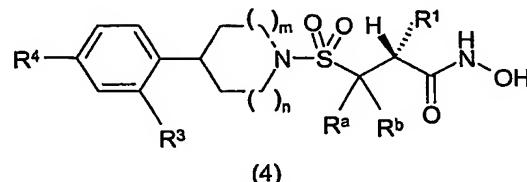
20 wherein m, n, Cy,  $R^a$ ,  $R^b$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are as defined in Claim 1; and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or  $N$ -oxides thereof.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (3):



25 wherein m, n,  $R^a$ ,  $R^b$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are as defined in Claim 1; and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or  $N$ -oxides thereof.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 which has the formula (4):



wherein m, n, R<sup>a</sup>, R<sup>b</sup>, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined in Claim 1;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

5. 5. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein Cy is a phenyl group.

6. A compound according to any preceding Claim wherein R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> is each a hydrogen atom.

7. A compound according to any preceding Claim wherein m is the integer 1

10 10 and n is zero or the integer 1.

8. A compound of any preceding Claim in which n is the integer 1.

9. A compound of any preceding Claim in which R<sup>1</sup> is a group selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>phenyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>heteroaryl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>heterocycloalkyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, in which each phenyl or heteroaryl group, present as or as part of the group R<sup>1</sup>, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R<sup>7</sup>, as defined in Claim 1; and in which each alkyl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl group, present as or as part of the group R<sup>1</sup>, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R<sup>8</sup>, as defined in Claim 1.

15 15 10. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R<sup>1</sup> is a group selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, phenyl, heterocycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-2</sub>phenyl.

11. A compound according to any one of Claims 1, 3 or 5 to 8 in which R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl

20 20 25 group optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R<sup>9</sup>, as defined in Claim 1.

12. A compound according to Claim 11 in which R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclobutyl group.

13. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which  $R^3$  is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-CF_2H$ , methoxy, ethoxy,  $-OCF_3$ ,  $-OCF_2H$  or  $-CN$ .

14. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which  $R^4$  is an atom or group selected from a hydrogen, F or Cl atom or a methyl,  $-CF_3$ , methoxy or  $-OCF_2H$  group.

15. A compound of any preceding Claim wherein  $R^3$  is an atom or group selected from F, Cl,  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl or  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy.

16. A compound according to Claim 15 wherein  $R^3$  is a  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl or  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy group.

17. A compound according to Claim 15 or Claim 16 wherein  $R^3$  is a methyl or methoxy group.

18. A compound which is:

2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-

15 methylbutyramide;

2-[4-(2-methyl-4-fluorophenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-methylbutyramide;

2-benzyl-*N*-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonyl]propionamide;

2-benzyl-*N*-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methylphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonyl]propionamide;

20 *N*-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonyl]-2-phenylpropionamide;

2(*R*)-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-methylbutyramide;

2(*R*)-[4-(2-methylphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-*N*-hydroxy-3-methylbutyramide;

25 1-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]cyclobutane carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(2-methylphenyl)piperidine-1-sulfonylmethyl]cyclobutane carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.